

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

DAILY LOTTERY

SUPER LOTTO

14 15 39 42 45
Meganumber: 11
Jackpot: \$44 Million

FANTASY 5

4 8 20 31 37

DAILY 3

Daytime: 7 8 8
Evening: 5 7 6

DAILY DERBY

1st: 11 Money Bags
2nd: 07 Eureka!
3rd: 01 Gold Rush

RACE TIME: 1:49.23

NEWS OF THE WEIRD
BY CHUCK SHEPARD

■ In a February report to the U.S. Department of Education, the District of Columbia public school system revealed a chronic-truancy rate of 23 percent (15,000 of its 65,000 students absent without excuse at least 15 days a year), many times higher than the rate for adjacent or comparable jurisdictions. (However, a March report of the D.C. Inspector General partially undermined that number, pointing out that the schools' \$4.5 million computer system was incapable of identifying which students are at which schools.)

■ In February, the Washington, D.C., Department of Health chose an elementary school cafeteria as the site for a weekend sterilization/vaccination program for stray and feral cats. Although workers put down plastic sheets and towels, when students and teachers arrived the next school day, they were overwhelmed with odors of ether and cat urine. Only then did officials decide to cancel lunch, and classes, for a complete cleaning and disinfecting.

TODAY IN HISTORY

Today is the 158th day of 2005.
There are 207 days left in the year.

On June 7, 1776, Richard Henry Lee of Virginia proposed to the Continental Congress a resolution calling for a Declaration of Independence.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"The slight that can be conveyed in a glance, in a gracious smile, in a wave of the hand, is often the ne plus ultra of art. What insult is so keen or so keenly felt, as the polite insult which it is impossible to resent?"

JULIA KAVANAGH
IRISH NOVELIST (1824-1877)

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Better put a coat on



Fabian Lewkowicz/Special to the Daily Press

Volunteers from Santa Monica High School's Pep Squad paint the pool in the outdoor theatre over the weekend in anticipation of the Jackson Browne fund-raiser concert performed there on Sunday.

Common threads in visions for mall

BY RYAN HYATT

Daily Press Staff Writer

DOWNTOWN — Those boldly envisioning what Santa Monica Place might become are starting to get a dose of reality.

A consultant issued a report last Thursday detailing the common themes that emerged from a series of four public workshops held in March intended for residents to "reimagine" what Santa Monica Place Mall might become. More than 300 residents took part in the gatherings to determine what should be done about the downtown indoor shopping mall between Broadway and Colorado Avenue, and Second and Fourth streets.

The report said many wanted to see an extension of the Third Street Promenade continue to Main Street, a modest level of building height, and design schemes that incorporate cultural and open space — as well as providing a variety of commercial opportunities for the area.

Workshop participants used scaled blocks and maps to generate ideas about what features any revitalization of Santa Monica Place should include. Their discussions were the basis for the June 2 report published by Moore Iacofono and Goltsman, Inc., the consultant firm hired by the city of Santa Monica to facilitate the design process. MIG has also received more than 2,000 comments from residents regarding the redevelopment of the mall from those who did not attend the workshops. These comments, along with some taken from a recent citywide survey, will be discussed in a future report.

How to go about redeveloping Santa Monica Place is something

Original pier player Gordon, 91, dies

BY RYAN HYATT

Daily Press Staff Writer

George Gordon, who co-founded the Playland Arcade located on the Santa Monica Pier, died on April 13. He was 91.

Gordon was born in Philadelphia on October 15, 1913. He moved out to California in 1941, serving in the United States Navy during the Second World War. After the war, he operated a route owning and servicing pinball machines located in bars and arcades.

Gordon, his father, Morris, and his late brother, Gene, opened the Playland Arcade in 1952. Four generations of the Gordon family have since owned and operated amusements located on the Santa Monica Pier, including the Carousel, children's rides, a shooting gallery, a billiard parlor and an archery range.

Gordon was known as a champion who was always prepared to confront the unsteady political climates, fierce storms and constant wear that has threatened the Santa Monica Pier in the past.



George Gordon and his wife June (at left) enjoy a day at the Santa Monica beach in 1945. (right) Gordon speaks during the re-opening of the Playland Arcade.



Photos courtesy

Santa Monica City Councilman Ken Genser said his passing marks the end of an era.

"It's very sad to hear about George's passing," Genser said. "We have not only lost a unique individual, but we are also losing a link to our past."

The Playland Arcade is the oldest continuously operating business on the Santa Monica Pier, employing as many as 30 people during the peak summer months.

Gordon is survived by his wife,

See GORDON, page 6

See SM PLACE, page 6

GABY SCHKUD

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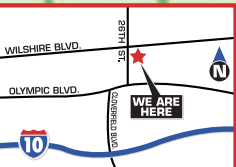
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Your treat tonight, Taurus

Santa Monica Daily Press

JACQUELINE BIGAR'S STARS The stars show the kind of day you'll have:
★★★★-Dynamic ★★★★★-Positive ★★★★★-Average ★★-So-so ★-Difficult



ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★ You might have the best intentions, but unfortunately, a flurry of activity surrounds you and could disrupt the best-laid plans. Don't let someone push you to a point where your anger could explode. Say no to losing self-control. Tonight: Take it easy.



TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★ Be sensitive to others, and they will be sensitive to you. You might need to carefully question the judgment of others, especially when someone has a brainy idea about an investment that could affect you. Listen well, but also be willing to say no. Tonight: Your treat.



GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★ Investigate possibilities, but don't be surprised if someone nixes your ideas midway. Consider options that others refuse to consider. You might need to go in your own direction right now. No one can prevent you from thinking. Tonight: All smiles.



CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★ Slow down and be precise when making important decisions. Much might be going on behind the scenes that could make you more uncomfortable than you realize. Stop and take a private inventory. Tonight: Clear out what is ailing you.



LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★ You are pressured to come up with reasonable solutions. Cast away negative thinking; drop the words "no" and "impossible" from your vocabulary. Commit to what works rather than be blown away by a changeable situation. Tonight: Take some personal time.



VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★ Investigate what might be happening within your immediate circle of friends. You discover that someone close might be hiding a key piece of information because he or she is anticipating a certain reaction. Tonight: Make a must appearance.



LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★ Your ability to detach could be tested to the utmost. Listen and share more. You will be able to understand someone else's ideas better if you simply flow with the moment. Lose your tendency to be judgmental. Tonight: Look beyond the obvious.



SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★ Work with a well-funded partner who has only the best intentions. You could get confused by what someone says. If you are dealing with conflicting information, don't try to make it match. Try accepting both as true. Tonight: Listen to the other side.



SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★ Your stubbornness could be the source of difficulty more than you realize. Visualize what you want, but be willing to let others demonstrate the pluses in their thinking. You aren't always right. Back down for now. Tonight: Let others decide.



CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★ You might need to revise your thinking, as it could be way off. Concentrate on daily chores and getting your work completed. Certainly, you will have time to sort through different opinions. Tonight: Ease up. Head to bed early.



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★ Sometimes you might have a difficult time seeing the forest for the trees. In fact, at the moment, a friend might be feeding you a lot of misinformation — intentionally or not. Take your time deciphering what is what. Tonight: Call it an early night, if possible.



PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★ Pressure builds without any additional help from friends or bosses. You might be making more out of a situation than exists. You could easily lose your temper. Don't allow others to force your hand. Tonight: Head home.



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LOCAL



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

‘Pops’ goes the easel: Emeritus Band amped up

By Daily Press staff

Get ready to rock and sway to the Santa Monica College beat. The SMC Emeritus College Band will present its “Pops” Concert — an eclectic program of classical, Broadway show tunes and more, taking listeners back in musical time. The 60-member concert band, part of SMC’s acclaimed Emeritus College for older adults, is under the baton of Wallace Umber. On the program will be a wide range of pieces, including the Finale from Dvorak’s Symphony No. 8, Bach’s St. Matthew Passion Final Chorus, and Sousa’s “Bride-Elect March.” Also featured will be selections from Cole Porter’s 1953 Broadway hit “can-can.” In addition, a tuba/euphonium quartet will play variations on “Yes, We Have No Bananas,” arranged by band member Barbara Saevig. Awards for service will be presented to 22 band members who have played with Emeritus Band for 10 to 36 years. Umber founded the Emeritus Band in 1968. This event will take place on Sunday, June 12 at 3 p.m. the SMC Concert Hall, 1900 Pico Blvd. Admission and parking are free. For further information, call (310) 434-4306 or (310) 474-5271.

It’s a big universe out there

By Daily Press staff

“The New Planets” — a look at the discovery over the past decade of more than 120 planets of other stars — will be the feature show June 10 and 17 at Santa Monica College’s Friday night astronomy series. The guest lecture will be “Extending Our Senses.” Robert Staehle of the Jet Propulsion Lab will talk about how we use robot technology to extend our senses to extraterrestrial environments. The guest lecture will be Friday, June 24. The feature show and guest lecture are at 8 p.m. Each is preceded by “The Night Sky Show” — which re-creates the night sky and provides the latest information on space exploration, at 7 p.m. The astronomy shows are held in the John Drescher Planetarium, which features the state-of-the-art Digistar projection system. It is located on the second floor of Drescher Hall, 1900 Pico Blvd. The guest lecture is in Science Lecture Hall 140. For information, call (310) 434-4223 or (310) 434-3000.

Take action at free UCLA film forum

By Daily Press staff

All walks of the film industry are invited to come out to the Twyman Creative LA Film Conference to be held on the campus of UCLA at Ackerman Hall. Admission to the conference is free and will take place on Saturday, June 11, from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. The goal of the film conference is to network everyone in the industry, from writers, producers, directors, sound people, cameramen and actors. You never know with whom you can get your foot in the door. Professionals from every walk of the film and entertainment industry will be speaking on several panel discussions. You will also be able to meet award-winning feature film writer, producer and director Tim Greene of Tim Greene Films and The Ultimate Hip Hop Motion Picture Consortium. Tim will give tips on how to really make things happen in the film business.

CORRECTION — There was an error in the June 6 article “Homeless Liaison Idea Losing Steam.” The public hearing on the budget and budget adoption will both occur on June 21.



SURF REPORT

Today, the combination of SW swell should peak with waist- to chest-high breaks. As for the NW wind swell, size along west-facing breaks for the peaky incoming sets should be around waist to chest. Areas of night through morning will have low clouds and fog, otherwise mostly clear.

Today the water is:

61°

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	LOW TIDES				HIGH TIDES			
	Morning	Height	Evening	Height	Morning	Height	Evening	Height
SATURDAY	8:19	-0.8	7:42	2.9	12:30	5.8	3:36	3.8
SUNDAY	9:22	-0.5	9:33	2.7	1:41	5.2	4:35	4.1
MONDAY	10:20	-0.2	11:10	2.1	3:06	4.6	5:23	4.6
TUESDAY	11:13	0.2	12:24	1.4	11:13	0.2	12:24	1.4
WEDNESDAY	12:24	1.4	11:59	0.7	6:00	3.9	6:39	5.5
THURSDAY	1:22	0.6	12:41	1.1	7:13	3.8	7:13	5.9
FRIDAY	2:18	0.9	1:17	0.9	8:09	3.4	7:45	5.2

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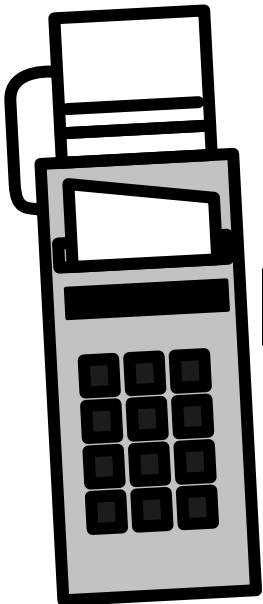


Next week the City Council will consider a proposal that would provide a limited number of parking permits to employees of businesses adjacent to certain residential preferential parking zones. So this week, Q-Line wants to know, “Do you think preferential parking permits, traditionally only granted to resi-

dents of a neighborhood, should be extended to employees who work nearby? Why or why not?” Call (310) 285-8106 before Friday at 5 p.m. and we’ll print your responses in the weekend edition. Please try to limit your comments to a minute or less. It might help to think first about the wording of your response.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Word on the street: Council should do homework

Editor:

The article concerning idealistic solutions to Santa Monica's homeless veteran population (SMDP, May 25, page 1) by Councilman Bobby Shriver, Mayor Pam O'Connor and other City Hall staff proves how short-sighted and ignorant our city leaders truly are about the homeless problem in general. This public service trinity of wisdom would like to see the campus of the West Los Angeles Veterans Administration Medical Center used as a "service enriched" emergency shelter for the homeless veterans in and around Santa Monica. The article quotes Shriver as saying, "It will turn into a good thing, as long as we keep the focus on homeless veterans." Sorry, councilman, but as my friends in Alcoholics Anonymous fondly say, "You can't keep what you haven't got!"

If you had any focus on homeless veterans in this city and the west side of LA in general, you would know that there already is, in fact, a "service enriched" emergency shelter for vets — it's called the West Los Angeles Veterans Administration — duh!

Also in the article there is mention of Mayor O'Connor's City Hall letter to the VA suggesting that our local officials' "knowledge of the issue" would help in a partnership to turn the VA campus into a facility that meets the housing, social service, health and mental health needs of homeless veterans in Santa Monica and its environs. Again, I must refer to the Alcoholics Anonymous dictionary of profound wit concerning the claim of our local officials' knowledge of the issue — "Your best thinking got you here!"

If our trusted and elected officials truly had knowledge of this issue, they would never lay claim to this less-than-thought-out idea about a homeless veteran program... because it's already there on the VA grounds — double duh! All of the above-mentioned needs and services have been offered to veterans at the West LA VA for years. What's wrong with you people? God — and I'm the one sleeping outside... jeez.

These services for veterans can be obtained in several ways, and almost every homeless vet in this area knows about them from personal experience or by word-of-mouth. The starting point is at the VA's Comprehensive Homeless Veterans Program, located at building number 206, north of Wilshire Blvd. After a vet checks in, he or she is screened for verification of military service, benefit eligibility status — AKA "per diems" — and medical priority. Within a few hours, the veteran will have seen a nurse and a social worker to help evaluate and determine the best course of action and/or treatment. More often than not, because many homeless veterans have a substance abuse history that dovetails their housing dilemma, the VA's on-campus alcohol and drug rehab programs are recommended. These programs run independently of each other and are supervised by the administration to ensure such things as health standards and patient rights.

These programs at the VA include the Salvation Army's Haven One, in building No. 212; the R.T.C. unit in building No. 214; the Domiciliary — known affectionately as "Club Fed," which is located in both buildings No. 214 and No. 217; and the most difficult, but most successful — and nationally known — New Directions, a long term boot-camp-strict facility located in the beautifully restored building No. 116.

There are hundreds of beds for vets among all these programs, and while most of the time they are at or near full capacity, a veteran will usually get in a program within a few days at most. In the event a vet must wait for a bed, he or she is normally housed on the third-floor unit of the Salvation Army Haven Two temporary shelter, or at the New Directions detox unit in building No. 116. There is also another Salvation Army transitional shelter in building No. 207, where veterans can stay for as long as two weeks or so while waiting for a bed at one of the programs. They also offer permanent board and care placement at this facility.

As for veterans whose homelessness is not poly-substance related but is instead symptomatic of a service or non-service connected disability such as physical trauma or Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), or just plain old age, they can get referred to the Domiciliary or to the "Old Soldiers" convalescent unit in building No. 213. They may also get a referral to another VA in any other part of the country should specialized care be required.

Now, except for the convalescent unit — for obvious reasons — the other programs I mentioned offer the homeless vet more than just "three hots and a cot." Each of these above programs help the veteran with vocational job training and placement, assistance with military and VA pensions or disability payments, housing referrals, legal and paralegal representation, medical appointments including psychiatric and psychological attention, social living skills training, educational advancement, and so on.

Now, what bewilders me almost beyond belief is why none of this info I've just mentioned ever came to light in the Daily Press article! Can it possibly be that while the VA has been offering these homeless veteran services for years at the West L.A. VA campus, our very own local officials remain in the dark about them? Naw... no way, not with all Councilman Bobby Shriver's focus, and our local officials' knowledge of the issue, right? How is it that a stinkin' good for nothin' bum like me knows more about this issue than our city leaders who are elected and trusted to research and review such important matters? Something stinks in all this and it ain't me 'cause I just had a shower. But there is a kind of stink that no amount of soap and water can wash away — the stink of political hypocrisy.

Shriver, our mayor and other city staff publicly claim to have "focus" and "knowledge" of the homeless veteran issue — I've just proved publicly that they are liars, or at the very least, incompetent. In either case it's hypocrisy, which means, "hide behind a mask," which is what people do when they withhold truth or pretend to be privy to truth. The reality is that Shriver and company have no focus on the homeless veteran issue, and very little — if any — knowledge about the issue.

See LETTERS, page 5

If monkeys can fall, so can your business



WHAT'S THE POINT?

BY DAVID PISARRA

Everyone knows the traumas of divorce, whether you've been through one personally or simply watched the carnage happen to someone else, the ugliness is unavoidable. In the business world, we go through much the same types of traumas when a business fails.

As in marriages, there are many reasons why a good business will go south. The odds are against you in building a business to begin with, and having a partner only increases the stresses, and increases the likelihood of a failure.

I say this not as someone who has simply looked on with objectivity, but rather as someone who has owned businesses with others. Partners can make or break you.

I've been lucky in my life. As a lawyer, I have a partner and we've been friends ever since our first weeks in law school. He's just celebrated his 11th wedding anniversary, and I can recall being in his wedding. We've been in business together for a long time. I can honestly say that in all that time, even though we've had our fights — usually my fault — we've always treated each other with respect.

We operate our partnership on the honor system. Each of us works the hours we work, and we make sure our bills are paid. We take vacations when we want, by telling the other that we're leaving. We take days off by calling each other in the morning.

On the other hand, I've been an investor and that makes me a partner with someone else. In that relationship, there was a definite loss of respect on his part. The good news about that is that I wasn't the only one who was treated poorly. Pretty much everyone he dealt with had the same experience.

That business went under. It was an ambulance business. Now the ambulance business is pretty much a license to print money once it is up and running. If you think about it, there is very little negotiation going on when you are lying on the side of the street bleeding to death. The ambulance company is going to get paid by an insurer, or the county, or you.

It is always sad to me when a company goes under, particularly so when the reasons for it is ego, vanity, bad money management and selfishness.

When the car came along, the wagon wheel dealership business took a nose dive, understandably. The same thing happened when the PC revolution took over and almost put the typewriter manufacturers out of business. But when a company goes out of business, not for a sound reason, like change in circumstance, but for greed, it is just pathetic.

These days, the topic of greed is on everyone's lips thanks to the Jeffrey Skillings and Bernie Ebbers of the world. Enron has attuned the media to the excesses of corporate spending, but the fact is, that greed kills more small businesses than large. And small businesses employ far more people overall than the Enrons of the world.

A small business might employ only 20 people, but those 20 people are likely to

have spouses, children and parents, all of whom are depending on them. In America, the small business makes up the vast majority of the employers. Whenever a small business goes under, it affects many lives.

The ambulance company didn't employ many people, perhaps a dozen or so. But they each have lives that were affected by the death of a good business.

When a good business goes under, you have to look at why. In this case, the managing partner was focused on getting his before the employees got theirs, and before the investors were taken care of. His personal spending like a drunken sailor led to the death of a business, and the loss of investments. My loss is not too bad. I'm 38 and have a lot of skills to fall back on. The other investor is a guy in his late 50s. He lost his life savings. Where is he going to get his kids college money from?

The signs were all there. The managing member was spending company money to buy himself \$800 nights at a fancy schmancy hotel in Westwood when he lives in Venice. He bought \$500 eyeglasses, and he loses them monthly. He bought \$300 dinners for himself and his new wife. My spouse and I don't do that, and we have a lot of disposable income. It's no wonder the company went under.

He was a textbook example of how to be a bad partner: spend all the revenue on yourself, don't communicate with your partners. When you do speak to them, blame them. Don't pay the company bills, but make sure you have regular paid vacations. Spend a lot of money making sure you look good. Keep switching the bank accounts to different banks so that it is really hard for your partners to locate the money. Lie ... a lot. Preferably while telling them that you "love them", which you say at the end of all phone calls. Steal all that you can. Drive your partners away, and then blame them for "not being there."

As an investor, I can objectively look at what I did wrong in the situation. I didn't check out the person I was investing in closely enough. I didn't see the warning signs. I've learned some mighty big lessons out of this one. I've learned that a bad business partner will not introduce you to his best friend of 10 years, mostly because he doesn't have one. I've learned that a bad business partner doesn't have relationships and connections that go back beyond six months. He will begin to accuse you of bad motives, and of failing to meet some unstated goal, and of having let him down. The bad partner will do this mostly out of their own guilt for their theft of corporate funds.

I ignored my gut instinct. I would get anxious when the phone would ring and he was on it. I would get anxious just thinking about calling him. I would be on the defensive in all of our conversations, I was questioning my own memory — things I have never done with my law partner.

I noticed my blood pressure would go up, and my heart rate would accelerate to the point where I could feel it. This is the body's way of telling you that you are making a mistake. I wish I had listened to my body more, and not been blinded by the seductive lure of a winning business model.

But, as my late brother used to say, "even monkey fall out tree sometime."

(David Pisarra is a business development lawyer in Santa Monica. He can be reached at dpisarra@pisarra.com.

COMMENTARY



Kibbles and bits of happiness at every turn

ANY DAY IN LA

BY HEIDI MANTEUFFEL



If someone told me LA had gone to the dogs, I would have to agree.

Not that it's trashy, that LA men are hounds or scoundrels, it's just that a class of citizens in LA is rapidly emerging, that being one of the canine persuasion.

Initially, it was a slow introduction of the species into human society with only traces of peculiarity here and there. People bought busy bees and occasionally included their golden lab in the family photo. Sure it was odd to have Pancake pose next to Grandma Jo, but on the whole, there was nothing all too intrusive about the matter.

However, things rapidly increased over the past few years, thanks to the exorbitant amounts of spending and high-end fashion that LA endorses. For today, we see women toting Prada puppy purses, high-end puppy boutiques, bakeries and massage centers that pamper LA's pooches.

In my mind, LA citizenship is only a matter of time.

Not to be jealous, but the most I pamper myself is eating an extra pop tart. I think the defining issue for me is when you start to spend more on presents for your dog than your close friends and family. With movie stars spending \$10,000 on anger management courses for their canine friends, we may have reached the

high-water mark.

That's right, Hillary Duff reportedly spent \$10,000 dollars on a dog whisperer to aid with her Chihuahua's anger problem. The whisperer's insightful suggestion? Take him out of the carrying bag. Let him walk.

Paris Hilton posted a \$1,000 reward for her long-lost Tinkerbell. That's nothing, though, compared to the approximately \$10,000 jewelry line she made in honor of her pint-size pal.

But I suppose that with box office earnings in the multi-millions, stars like Jim Carrey and Jenna Elfman can spend a little more, respectively, on their Great Danes and Pugs.

While most LA citizens may not go to such an elaborate extent, I can tell you this: nearly every time I walk on Montana Avenue, I see a dog sitting at a restaurant table near its owner.

More often than not, a pooch will even escort his owner into Blockbuster and help her choose between "Anchorman" and "Garden State." Small-bladder dogs can wander into numerous boutiques that prohibit food or drink, and no one seems to think two shakes about it.

In some aspects, LA is the perfect city to own a dog in. Walking a dog offers a great opportunity to meet people, giving even the shyest owner a confident introduction. I admit I pet most pugs I come across, as well as lumbering, down-turned expression bulldogs that courteously offer a head bob to indicate a smile of approval.

Not only that, but dogs can be better than a significant other. They'll never say you're commitment phobic, a bad dresser or watch too much TV. They never expect

to get the bill. Dogs don't own a wallet.

They allow the largely late twentysomethings and early thirtysomethings demographic of Santa Monica to be nurturing without incurring the incessant crying, and later, the you're-not-the-boss-of-me stage. Dogs won't worry you when they're teenagers by staying out too late. Let's be honest, they have no where to go.

While I'm not ready to own a dog in an apartment that shares resounding

acoustics with a hundred people across the alleyway, I do appreciate the many dogs of LA, and will pet a passing fluffy friend. And I think I will be comfortable with their move to LA citizenship, provided we hold firm to the tenant that any animal that poops on the sidewalk cannot hold public office.

(Heidi can be reached at anydayin-la@gmail.com)

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

LETTERS, from page 4

Do you know what this looks like to me? I'll tell ya' what this looks to me — to me this looks like a carefully woven scheme of political manipulation — that's what this looks like to me.

It is my contention that Councilman Shriver and Co. are trying to get their political foot in the door of the VA campus and that the best way to accomplish this is to voice their "focused" concern for Santa Monica's homeless veterans, then offer up "ideas" and "solutions" and "partnerships." I contend that their end game, if you will, is to rid this city of it's homeless problem, not because of an altruistic sense of civic duty, but because they thirst for the intoxicant of most every politician — a seat to higher office.

If they were to accomplish their dream of a successful Santa Monica/VA homeless veteran program (read: "partnership") they would have a nice little bullet on their resume with which to gain carte blanche at the VA and then establish a regional center for the homeless general public of Santa Monica. And as everyone knows, bullets on a politician's resume mean more votes and more coins in the campaign coffers.

I think that Shriver and company need to employ the expertise from experts who have firsthand experience of the homeless issue — those who have lived it.

Sometimes the answers don't come from think tank suits, PhDs, environmental impact studies or popularity votes. Sometimes success means thinking "outside the box" — in this case a cardboard box. Puns aside, many agencies have hired "outside the box" in order to stem society's ills. Who else but a master safe cracker could design a more secure vault?

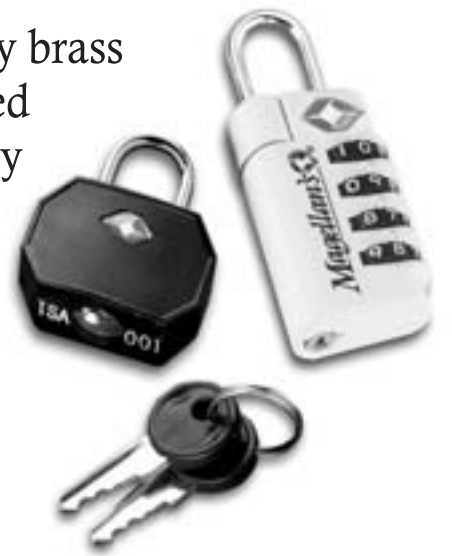
The point I'm trying to make is that a large part of the VA's various homeless programs' success is due to the fact that they are mainly controlled and operated by formerly homeless veterans. Unlike myself, many of these vets — some of whom were fellow patients of mine at one time or another — reached in and pulled out that old fashion military bearing and discipline in order to better themselves. That is why Alcoholics Anonymous is also so successful — it's run by the same kind of people it aims to help.

What this city needs is a staff or liaison — call it any darn thing you want — of formerly homeless individuals with some political juice — not just a voice. Otherwise, all we're really going to have with Shriver at the front of the homeless issue is a guy who ran for public office not because of his focus of the homeless, but because of his embittered battle with City Hall over the height of his hedges.

James Zeruk
Bewildered veteran

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that has been bandied about by city officials recently. Plans to build skyscraper luxury apartments, with commercial and retail buildings below, were scrapped earlier this year after being presented to the public and met with stiff resistance.

Operating the pier playlands a long-running family tradition

“Mr. Gordon was a nice guy. One of the reasons why so many of the employees have worked so long here is because no one ever saw him in a bad mood,” Jimenez said. “He was always smiling and telling jokes, and he lived his life like that.”

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KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

“Know before you Go” is a weekly update on construction projects throughout Santa Monica. Here is a run-down of this week’s construction projects initiated by City Hall:



Beach pedestrian access

The Idaho Avenue stairs between Palisades Park and the beach are closed for cleanup and repair.

Cingular telecommunications lines

Cingular is installing telecommunication lines on San Vicente Blvd. between 17th Street and 19th Street. There may be detours around the work area.

Civic Center parking structure

Construction of a new 900 space Civic Center Public Parking Structure located on Fourth Street, next to the Public Safety Facility continues. Construction will require the closure of Avenida Mazatlan and the Fourth Street sidewalk. One lane of southbound Fourth Street is subject to closure while work is occurring.

Fire hydrant relocation

The Water and Wastewater Division will be relocating and installing fire hydrants on Wilshire Blvd. at Sixth and Seventh Streets from June 6 through June 9. During construction, one west-bound lane and the parking lane will be blocked. Please follow posted detours around the work area.

Franklin Reservoir roof-strengthening project

This project involves the strengthening of the Franklin Reservoir roof. During the course of this project, Franklin Street will be closed to both vehicles and pedestrians between Lipton and Montana.

Gas Company main replacement

Southern California Gas Company is replacing a four inch main on Ocean Park Blvd. between 14th and 15th Streets. There will be detours around work areas. Please follow posted signs.

Main Library

Construction is underway on the new main library, located at 601 Santa Monica Blvd. During construction please visit the temporary library at 1324 Fifth Street or any of the branch libraries. There is currently no sidewalk access on Santa Monica Blvd., Sixth Street, and Seventh Street adjacent to the project.

Memorial, Los Amigos park building replacement

Demolition of existing park buildings and construction of new restrooms, concession stands and storage buildings. Park buildings will be inaccessible during construction. Memorial Park is located at Olympic Blvd. and 14th St. and Los Amigos Park is located at 5th and Hollister.

Memorial Park skatepark

Construction of a new skate park facility at Memorial Park, located at Olympic Blvd. and 14th St., is near completion. The grand opening is scheduled for Friday, June 17.

Street and park lighting project

Work continues on upgrading street lighting with new fixtures and circuits. Construction for this project occurs in the sidewalk area and may impact pedestrians, vehicles, and park visitors. Parking restrictions will also be in place immediately adjacent to the work areas. This work is currently scheduled to occur on Colorado between Ocean Avenue and Sixth Street; Fifth Street between Colorado and Santa Monica Blvd.; Santa Monica Blvd. between 6th Street and 12th Street; Wilshire Blvd. Between Seventh St. and Euclid St.; and in and around Douglas Park (at Wilshire and 24th St.), Marine Park (at Marine St. and 16th St.), and Clover Park (Ocean Park Blvd. at 25th St.). There will be lane closures, turning restrictions, and detours around the work area.

Virginia Avenue Park

Major renovations at the park, located at the corner of Pico and Cloverfield Blvds., are expected to continue through Fall 2005. The park is closed at this time. This project also includes Construction of new turning lanes, traffic signals, striping, and irrigation and landscaping on Cloverfield and Pico Boulevards adjacent to the park.

(For more information, log on to http://santa_monica.org/engineering/projects/kbug_project_list.asp or call (310)458-8721.)

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DEAR DORIE

It's OK to be a diaper dandy

Dear Dorie,

When is the right time to start potty training my daughter? I've heard as early as one year, and as late as four years. I'm a little confused. I'm also growing impatient with dirty diapers on a 30-month-old.

Still On Diaper Duty

Dear Still,

As with most topics in early childhood, toilet learning (the "pc" term for potty-training) is different for each and every child. Some children are out of diapers by 2 and never look back, others stay diaper-bound until 4 and transition with lots of accidents. Research has shown that there is no benefit for a child to start toilet-learning early and, in fact, the process takes longer. "Start at 2, finish at 3, start at 3, finish at 3" is the catch phrase.

What you're looking for are the signals of readiness: your toddler should be able to stay dry for three or more hours, recognize that she has to urinate and act on this information before it's too late. Fine motor skill ability with clothes will help prevent accidents, but is not essential (you can avoid overalls for a while). The part that's vague is the necessary motivation to be independent. Your daughter has to want to do this by herself, or at the very least, be losing interest in the diaper-changing ritual. Your job then is to make her feel as comfortable as possible during the transition from diapers to underwear.

Be careful not to force or push your child when it comes to toilet-learning. Her voluntary cooperation in this process is the most important ingredient. Good luck.

Dorie

(Dorie Meek is director of the Infant & Family Support Program, provided by Saint John's Health Center in partnership with the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District. Submit your questions to "Dear Dorie" at meek@smmusd.org, or call (310) 452-6132).

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Sure, it's a chore, but giving kids a to-do list benefits them



How Much Is Enough?

By Jean Illsley Clarke

The senior high school social studies class listened attentively to the guest speaker talk about overindulgence and the negative ways it impacts adult lives. At the close of the session one student asked, "If we think we are being overindulged, what can we do about it?" After a moment's thought, the speaker said, "Do chores." The students looked at each other. They seemed to be dismayed. Finally a boy in a football jersey said, "Clarisa Johnson (not her real name) does chores." Others chimed in. "Yeah. I know her. She does do chores." "Mrs. Clarke, we know a girl who does chores." It was clear that not one of the 27 young people in the room did chores. These are good kids. Good kids who are only a few steps away from being adults. What's going on here?

The most frequent complaint adults who had been overindulged as children reported in the overindulgence research project was, "I didn't have to do chores." They told us they were embarrassed at not knowing how to do things that other adults all seemed to know how to do. They complained about not knowing how to do life skills like cooking, shopping for food, caring for clothing, doing laundry, cleaning their houses, maintaining their cars, balancing their checkbooks, you name it.

"Why don't you do chores?" the teacher asked. The answers varied.

■ "I'm in too many activities to do chores. I don't have time."

■ "Parents don't have time to make me do them."

■ "There aren't any chores to do."

■ "I don't like to do chores."

Each of these situations would be easy to slide into. Overindulgence comes from a parent's good heart, but what starts as a coping skill often becomes a habit.

What is a parent to do? Forgive yourself and take action!

The kids said, "I'm in too many activities to do chores."

List the activities. Which ones include important life skills? Which ones won't make any difference at age forty? Do you decide what to cut back, or does your child choose? Will your child resist? Possibly. Some children try hissy fits and others just act relieved. The number of activities your child engages in is really your decision. You are the parent.

The kids said, "Parents don't have time to make me do them."

When we had children we bought the contract of taking the time to raise them. It's not always easy. One dad changed his workout times to be home to do chores with his kids. One mom resigned from a committee to make time. One dad cut back on his TV sports watching. One couple even moved to shorten their commute times. Drastic? Yup. But they did it. Did the kids complain? Yup. But the parents were being the parents. And more kids did chores.

The kids said, "There aren't any chores to do."

One family let the lawn service go. An apartment dwelling family cut their housekeeping service in half. One dad stopped taking his car through the car wash and sent it through the kid wash. If the doctor told you that you needed to supervise your child doing certain remedial exercises every day, you would find the time. Think of chores as preventative medicine.

The kids said, "I don't like to do chores."

So? It's not your job to make your child happy. It's up to him to learn to be happy, and if he won't do that about chores, that's his decision. Not yours. Reassure yourself that he is learning important life skills, and remember that nowhere is it written that children must like doing chores.

There is more about what happens to children who don't do chores and who have too much done for them in the book *How Much Is Enough?*

To participate in a new study on overindulgence and relationships log onto our Web site at www.overindulgence.info.

(Jean Illsley Clarke Ph.D., Connie Dawson Ph.D., and David J. Bredehoft Ph.D. are co-authors of *How Much Is Enough? Everything You Need to Know to Steer Clear of Overindulgence and Raise Likable, Responsible, and Respectful Children*. Jean can be reached at jiconsults@aol.com. To read more about overindulgence go to www.overindulgence.info.)

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EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT CHOOSING A PRESCHOOL
10:30 a.m. – noon. Presented by Christy Bergin of Best Fit Preschool service. Call 434-9706 for more information or to pre-register. \$10; children welcome. At Birth and Beyond, 1750 Ocean Park Blvd., Suite 206.

SATURDAY & SUNDAY, JUNE 11-12

A KID'S LIFE!, 11:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. Upbeat music, dazzling dance and adorable characters that connect children to parents. Brentwood Theatre, 11611 Wilshire Blvd., 479-3003 for tickets. \$17.50 adults, \$12.50 kids. Also June 18-19.

SONGS of LOVE and LAUGHTER, 7:30 p.m. A musical journey down memory lane featuring favorite tunes from a 43-year catalog of romantic melodies and humorous delights. Performed by young people. Santa Monica Playhouse, 1211 4th St.,

SATURDAY, JUNE 11
RHYTHM CHILD FAMILY JAM, 4:30 – 5:15 p.m. Santa Monica Studios, 3025 W. Olympic Blvd. Bring the whole family for a percussion jam. All ages, \$15 per child, \$10 sibling, adults free. 204-5466.

SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT of CHILDREN, LECTURE and MEDITATION
1:00 – 6:00 p.m. Kids' Yoga Circle, 1814 14th St., Call 260-2736 for info.
Also Sunday, June 12, noon – 6:00 p.m.

ALADDIN, the PRINCESS & the MAGIC LAMP, 1:00 p.m. An audience-participatory based on the classic story. Ages 3-9, Theatre West, 3333 Cahuenga Blvd., 818-761-2203.

SUNDAY, JUNE 12
FAMILY FUNDAY PERFORMANCE - THE VEL-VETEN RABBIT, 11:00 a.m. A classic tale of true friendship & what it means to be real. All ages, \$8, Will Geer Theatrum Botanicum, 1419 N. Topanga Canyon Blvd., 455-3723.

SATURDAYS & SUNDAYS thru JUNE 26
BARNYARD MADNESS with the THREE LITTLE PIGS
12:30 & 3:00 p.m. All singing! All dancing! This zany Country and Western Romp is fun family theatre for kids ages 2 – 102. \$12 adults, \$10.50 ages 12 and under. Santa Monica Playhouse, 1211 4th St., 394-9779, ext. 2, www.santamonicaplayhouse.com.

YMCA - Registration is underway for the YMCA's summer session of Parent/Me Gym & Swim Classes, Tumbling Toddler Time, Baby Massage, Tiny Tumblers and more. Session dates are June 25 – Sept. 2. Call 393-2721, ext. 107 for more info. 1332 6th St.

SUMMER CAMPS, SWIM and COMMUNITY CLASSES offered by the City of Santa Monica. The city provides children of all ages with a variety of recreation enrichment activities including camps, sports, dancing, crafts and yoga. For details pick-up a copy of Seascape at Joslyn or Reed Park (also other locations around town), or call 458-2239.

TUESDAY

Movies for Moms! June 7 – Cinderella Man – starring Russell Crowe, Renee Zellweger and Paul Giamatti. Biography/Drama, Rated “PG-13.”
11:00 a.m., Loews Broadway, 1441 3rd St. Promenade – for Moms and babies newborn – 1 year old. Doors open early for socializing and getting comfortable.
Visit www.enjoytheshow.com/reelmoms for details.

Storytelling

Main Library – held at Reed Park, corner of 7th and Wilshire.
Toddler Storytime; 10:00 a.m. For 2 year olds with adult. June 7 & 14.

Preschool Story Time; 10:30 a.m.; for ages 3-5. June 7 & 14.
Fairview Branch Library – 2101 Ocean Park Blvd – 310-450-0443.

Cuentos Para Pequenos – 10:00 a.m., six-week series in Spanish for 24 – 36 month olds with adult.

Lap Time – 11:00 a.m., six-week series for babies 0-24 months, co-sponsored by the SMMUSD Infant & Family Support Program.

Next session June 21 – Aug. 9 for both.
Twilight Story Time -7pm – an ongoing program for 3-5 year olds.

Montana Avenue Branch Library – 1704 Montana Ave – 310-829-7081.

Family Story Time – 7:00 p.m., all ages.

Ocean Park Branch Library – 2601 Main St. – 310-392-3804.

Toddler Storytime, 10:00 and 10:30. Music, rhymes and stories for 2 to 3 year olds. Current session June 7 – July 12.

Tiny Tuesday Storytime at Storyopolis
For ages infant to 3. 11:00 a.m. 116 North Robertson, Plaza A, LA. 310-358-2500, www.storyopolis.com

Barnes and Noble at the Grove
Storytime for ages 2 – 6. 10:00 a.m. 189 Grove Drive, LA, 323-525-0270

Classes

YWCA – A Place for Parents – Infant/Toddler & Me Classes -

9:15 - 10:15 a.m. – Walkers to 3 years; 10:45 – 11:45 a.m. & 1:30 – 2:30 p.m. – ages 0 to 1 year; classes in partnership with the Infant and Family Support Program. 2019 14th St. Call 452-3881 for details and prices.

YMCA – Attachment Parenting Classes - 2:00 – 3:30 p.m., 1332 Sixth St., 393-2721 (ask for Shelana Philip-Guide or Audrey Meyer). This new class for mothers/dads and babies up to 12 months is presented by Karol Darsa, PsyD, a licensed psychologist with extensive experience working with children and families. Fees: Members – 1 class – \$40, 5 class pass – \$180; Non-members – \$50, 5 class pass – \$200.
BREAKTHROUGH PARENTING CLASSES – 7:00 – 9:30 p.m.

An advanced 10-week parent education course. Culver City/Westchester, \$30 per class/\$40 materials. Also Thursdays, 6:30 – 9:30 p.m., West LA, \$40 per class/\$40 materials. Continuous enrollment. For info call Jayne A. Major, Ph.D., Breakthrough Parenting Services, Inc., 310-823-7846, jm@BPinAction.org.

Yoga & Exercise

Prenatal Aqua Aerobics at the Santa Monica YMCA

10:00 – 11:00 a.m. and 7:30 – 8:30 p.m.; Free for members, non-members \$90 for 10 classes. (also Thursday nights 7:30 – 8:30 p.m.) 393-2721, ext. 117 for more info.

Yoga Works – 2215 Montana Ave, 310-393-5150; Pre/postnatal – 12:15 – 1:40 p.m., \$15. Mommy and Me – 1:45 – 3:00 p.m.

Mommy Care – at the Dance Factory, 11606 San Vicente Blvd., Brentwood, 310-394-6711. Combined Pregnancy/Recovery Exercise Group – 7:00 – 8:00 p.m. (babies welcome, includes baby massage and workout at the end)
Itsy Bitsy Yoga – Tots (crawling to 24 months) – 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. Baby (6 weeks to pre-crawling) – 11:00 – noon. With Khethri Riley at Ocean Oasis, 1333 Ocean Ave. Register at www.khethri.net or call 323-549-5383.

Stroller Strides Fitness Class – 9:30 a.m. Mon. – Fri., Palisades Park, call 800-795-6708 or visit www.strollerstrides.com for more info.

Kids' Yoga Circle – Yoga for ages 4 -7, 4:00 – 5:15 p.m. (Students may be dropped off at 3:30

for indoor play, song and snacks). \$18 drop-in, discounted multiple week passes available, reservations required. 1814 14th St., #208, 260-2736

Breastfeeding Group

The Pump Station, 2415 Wilshire Blvd., 310-826-5774 - no pre-reg required, first class free, \$10 fee thereafter. Moms/babies 0-4 months, 1:00 – 2:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY

Storytelling

The Talking Stick Coffee Lounge – 1630 Ocean Park Blvd., 450-6052

10:30 a.m. Free story time for moms and kids ages 0-4 at this neighborhood coffee shop.

Fairview Branch Library – 2101 Ocean Park Blvd – 310-450-0443.

Toddler Story Time – 9:30 a.m., for two year olds.

Preschool Story Time – 10:30 a.m.; six-week series for 3-5 year olds with adult.

Next session June 22 – Aug. 10 for both.
Montana Avenue Branch Library – 1704 Montana Ave – 310-829-7081.

Lap Time – 10:15 & 11:15 a.m., ages 0-2. Current session June 1 – July 6.

Ocean Park Branch Library – 2601 Main St. –392-3804.

Preschool Twilight Story Time – 7:00 – 7:30 p.m. Parents/children ages 3-5.

Barnes and Noble, Westside Pavilion – 2 pm – ages 2-5 – 310-475-4144

Border's, Westwood – 11am – 310-475-3444.

Classes

Rhythm Child Parent & Me Rhythms, Santa Monica Studios, 3025 Olympic Blvd., 9:30 – 10:15 a.m. Children explore rhythms through drum play. Ages 6 mos. – 3.5 years; \$100 for 8 weeks. Call 204-5466 or visit www.rhythm-child.net for more info and session dates.

YWCA – A Place for Parents –Infant /Toddler and Me (0-12 mos.) – 10:30 – 11:00 a.m.; 2019 14th St. Call 452-3881for details and prices.

Yoga & Exercise

Yoga Works, 2215 Montana Ave, 310-393-5150 Pre/Postnatal – 12:15 – 1:45pm, \$15
Fitness for Moms – Babies Welcome! Step Aerobics, 10:30 a.m. at the YMCA, 393-2721, ext. 117 for more info. Free for members, non-members pay \$90 for 10 classes.

Stroller Strides Fitness Class – 9:30 a.m. Mon. – Fri., Palisades Park, call 800-795-6708 or visit www.strollerstrides.com for more info.

Kids' Yoga Circle – Mommy and Me Yoga (ages 4- 6), 1:00 – 2:00 p.m. and 2:00 – 3:00 p.m Includes 15 minutes of indoor play and song. \$165 for an 8 week session, \$75 for additional sibling.

Breastfeeding Group

The Pump Station, 2415 Wilshire Blvd., 310-826-5774, no pre-reg required, first class free, \$10 fee thereafter. Moms/babies 0-4 months, 1:00 – 2:30 p.m.

Other

Puppetolio – 1:00 p.m., 310-656-0483, 1255 2nd St., ages 3 & up, reservations suggested

THURSDAY

Babystyle, 1324 Montana Avenue, 434-9590 10:30 a.m. Free story time for moms and kids ages 0-4.

Main Library – held at Reed Park, corner of 7th and Wilshire.

Toddler Storytime; 10:00 a.m.; for 2 year olds with adult. Thru June 16.

Preschool Story Time; 10:30 a.m.; for ages 3-

5. Thru June 16.
Fairview Branch Library – 2101 Ocean Park Blvd – 310-450-0443.

La Hora Del Cuento – 7:00 p.m. Spanish stories, songs and rhymes for all ages.

Montana Avenue Branch Library – 1704 Montana Ave – 310-829-7081.

Toddler Story Time – 10:15 a.m., for 2 year olds.

Preschool Story Time – 11:15 a.m.; for 3-5 year olds.

Current session June 2 – July 7 for both.
Ocean Park Branch Library – 2601 Main St. – 310-392-3804.

Lap Time, 9:20 and 10:20. Ages 0 – 2. Next session June 23 – Aug 11.

Classes

YWCA – A Place for Parents – Toddler & Me Classes, Walkers to 3 years – 9:15 – 10:15 a.m. and 10:45 – 11:45 a.m.; classes in partnership with the Infant and Family Support Program. Parent Support (3 – 5 years) – 3:30 – 4:30 p.m. 2019 14th St. Call 452-3881for details and prices.

BREAKTHROUGH PARENTING CLASSES – 6:30 – 9:30 p.m.

An advanced 10-week parent education course. West LA, \$40 per class/\$40 materials. Also Tuesdays, 7:00 – 9:00 p.m., Culver City/Westchester, \$30 per class/\$40 materials; Continuous enrollment. For info call Jayne A. Major, Ph.D., Breakthrough Parenting Services, Inc., 310-823-7846, jm@BPinAction.org.

Yoga & Exercise

Prenatal Aqua Aerobics at the Santa Monica YMCA

7:30 – 8:30 p.m.; Free for members, non-members \$90 for 10 classes. (also Tuesdays at 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. and 7:30 – 8:30 p.m.) 393-2721, ext. 117 for more info.

Yoga Works – 2215 Montana Ave, 310-393-5150; Pre/postnatal – 12:15 – 1:40 p.m., \$15. Mommy and Me – 1:45 – 3:00 p.m.

Stroller Strides Fitness Class – 9:30 a.m. Mon. – Fri., Palisades Park, call 800-795-6708 or visit www.strollerstrides.com for more info.

Kids' Yoga Circle – Yoga for ages 6 - 10, 4:00 – 5:15 p.m. (students may be dropped off at 3:30 for indoor play, song and snacks). \$18 drop-in, discounted multiple week passes available, reservations required.

Family Yoga, 5:15 – 6:30 p.m., includes 15 minutes of indoor play and song. 8-week series for parents and 1 child, \$250, \$100 each additional child.

1814 14th St., #208, 260-2736

Breastfeeding Group

The Pump Station, 2415 Wilshire Blvd., 310-826-5774 - no pre-reg required, first class free, \$10 fee thereafter. Moms/babies 4-8 months, 1:00 – 2:30 p.m.

FRIDAY

MOMS Club of Santa Monica – New Mother Group – for new moms with babies ages 0-6 months. Meet for conversation, support and playtime. All new Moms welcome! Call Cassandra at 451-1827 for time, location and more info.

Parent's Night Out at Child's Play, 2299 Westwood Blvd., 6:00 – 11:00 p.m.

Kids get a night of supervised fun with pizza, games and more while parents go out. Ages 3-10, \$9 per hour, \$7 siblings, 3 hour minimum. Reservations required, 470-4997. www.child-splayonline.net

La Leche League of LA/Mar Vista – meets the 2nd Friday of each month at 10:00 a.m. Call 310-390-2529 for info.

Planetarium Show at SMC's John Drescher Planetarium, 7:00 p.m. - Night Sky Show, 8:00 p.m. – featured program. \$5 adults, \$4 chil-

dren. Pico and 17th St., 434-3000.

Classes

YWCA – A Place for Parents – Toddler & Me (1-3 years) – 9:20 – 10:20 a.m.; Parent Support (1-3 years) – 10:30 – 11:30 a.m.(childcare provided). 2019 14th St. Call 452-3881for details and prices.

Mommy and Me Dance– celebrate the wonderful world of imagination Fridays at the Electric Lodge. 9:45 – 10:45 a.m. ages 14 - 24 months; 10:45 – 11:45 a.m. ages 2 – 4. 6 classes for \$75 or \$14 per class. First class free! 1416 Electric Ave, Venice, 306-1854.

Yoga & Exercise

Fitness for Moms – Babies Welcome! Indoor Cycling, 10:30 a.m. at the YMCA, 393-2721, ext. 117 for more info. Free for members, non-members pay \$90 for 10 classes.

Yoga Works – 2215 Montana Ave, 310-393-5150; Pre/postnatal – 12:15 – 1:45 p.m., \$15.

Stroller Strides Fitness Class – 9:30 a.m. Mon. – Fri., Palisades Park, call 800-795-6708 or visit www.strollerstrides.com for more info.

Kids' Yoga Circle – Yoga for ages 8 - 11, 4:30 – 5:45 p.m., includes 15 minutes of indoor play and song, \$18 drop-in, discounted multiple week passes available, reservations required. 1814 14th St., #208, 260-2736

Other

Baby Attuned – Fridays, 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m., A new program promoting sensitive parenting and developmental awareness. Parent-completed developmental screening, with review and feedback from a licensed clinical developmental psychologist and experienced pediatric nurse practitioner, Eileen Escarce, PhD, MSN. (PSY 18819). Introductory fee: \$15 per screening with feedback. 1137 2nd Ave, Suite 213. By appointment only 310-367-1155.

SATURDAY

Storytelling

Barnes and Noble, 3rd St. Promenade – Kid's Story Time – 10am, 310-260-9110

Barnes and Noble, Westside Pavilion – 10:30am – ages 2-5, 310-475-4144.

Children's Book World, 10580 1/2 Pico Blvd, LA - 10:30 a.m., 310-559-800K.

Village Books, 1049 SwarthmoreAve, Pacific Palisades – 10:30 a.m., 454-4063.

826LA, 685 Venice Blvd, 2nd Floor, Venice – 10:30 – 11:30 a.m., ages 3-6, RSVP to info

@825LA.com or 310-314-8418. (826LA is a non-profit organization dedicated to supporting students with their creative and expository writing skills, and to helping teachers inspire their students to write).

Yoga & Exercise

Santa Monica Yoga – Pre- & Post-Natal Yoga, Saturdays – 12:30 – 2:00 p.m.

1640 Ocean Park Blvd, 396-4040, www.santamonica-yoga.com

Mommy Care – at the Dance Factory, 11606 San Vicente Blvd., Brentwood, 310-394-6711. Combined Pregnancy/Recovery Exercise Group – 8:30 – 9:30 a.m.(babies welcome, includes baby massage and workout at the end)

Stroller Strides Fitness Class – 9:00 a.m., Palisades Park, call 800-795-6708 or visit www.strollerstrides.com for more info.

Kids' Yoga Circle – Yoga for ages 6 -10, 9:45 – 10:55 a.m., includes 15 minutes of indoor play and song; Yoga Girls (ages 12 and up), 11:00 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. \$18 drop-in, discounted multiple week passes available, reservations required. 1814 14th St., #208, 260-2736

Other

Lakeshore Learning Stores “Free Crafts for Kids” – Saturdays, 11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.,

8888 Venice Blvd., 559-9630.

Barnyard Madness with the Three Little Pigs at the Santa Monica Playhouse

Saturdays & Sundays at 12:30 & 3:00 p.m, thru June 26; \$12 adults, \$10.50 kids ages 12 & under. 394-9779 ext. 2 for reservations, www.santamonica-playhouse.com, 1211 4th St.

Puppetolio – 1:00 and 3:00pm, 310-656-0483, 1255 2nd St., ages 3 & up, reservations suggested

AGICopolis – 2 and 8 p.m., 1418 4th St., Admission is \$20 for evening, \$15 for matinee. Call 310-451-2241 for info.

Precious Prints – Ceramic Heirlooms for a Lifetime

Second Saturday every month at The Pump Station, 1:00 – 4:00 p.m. Contact Kristan Ritchie at 310-802-8013 or visit www.preciousprintsstudios.com for more info.

SUNDAY

Main Street Farmer's Market – 9:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m., corner of Main St. and Ocean Park Blvd. Pony rides, live music, lots of vendors and great family socializing.

Puppetolio – 1:00 and 3:00pm, 310-656-0483, 1255 2nd St., ages 3 & up, reservations suggested

AGICopolis – 2 p.m., 1418 4th St., Admission is \$15. Call 310-451-2241 for info.

Barnyard Madness with the Three Little Pigs at the Santa Monica Playhouse

Saturdays & Sundays at 12:30 & 3:00 p.m, thru June 26; \$12 adults, \$10.50 kids ages 12 & under. 394-9779 ext. 2 for reservations, www.santamonica-playhouse.com. 1211 4th St.

Breastfeeding

Working Mother's Support Group

The Pump Station, 2415 Wilshire Blvd. - Call 826-5774 for more info.

MONDAY

Storytelling

Main Library – Lap Time at Joslyn Park, Craft Room, 9:30 a.m. A series for babies up to two years old, June 6 – July 25. (“Family Connections” is on summer break.)

Ocean Park Branch Library – 2601 Main Street, 310-392-3804.

“Spanish for Little Ones”, 11:15 a.m. Current session thru June 20th.

Barnes and Noble, 3rd St. Promenade – Toddler Story Time – 10am – 310-260-9110

Classes

YWCA – A Place for Parents – Toddler & Me (1-3 years) – 9:20 – 10:20 a.m.; Parent Support and Play Group (6 months -3 years) – 10:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. (partial childcare provided). 2019 14th St. Call 452-3881for details and prices.

Breastfeeding Group

The Pump Station, 2415 Wilshire Blvd., 310-826-5774 - no pre-reg required, first class free, \$10 fee thereafter. Moms/babies 0-4 months, 1:00 – 2:30 p.m.

Yoga & Exercise

Yoga Works, 2215 Montana Ave, 310-393-5150 Pre/Postnatal – 12:15 – 1:45pm, \$15



STATE

In Golden State, RNC sees glimmers of red

BY BETH FOUHY

AP Political Writer

SAN JOSE — Despite Democratic victories in the last four presidential contests and overwhelming Democratic majorities in the state's congressional delegation and Legislature, Republicans aren't giving up on California.

In the color coded map of contemporary American politics, California looms as the largest and bluest state of all — frustrating Republicans as they seek to solidify their status as the national majority party.

But Republican National Committee Chairman Ken Mehlman insists prospects are improving, thanks to demographic changes and the star power of the state's Republican governor, Arnold Schwarzenegger.

"There's tremendous opportunity here because of the governor and his leadership, and because of President Bush and his leadership," Mehlman told The Associated Press in an interview here Thursday. "This is a state that understands the need for reform, and you've got in the governor and the president two leaders who are big proponents of transforming government for the new challenges we face."

Mehlman nonetheless faces steep challenges to restoring the GOP's competitive position here.

Bush lost the state by ten points to Democrat John Kerry last November, and Schwarzenegger is engaged in a bruising battle with teachers, nurses and other Democrat-leaning interest groups over several government reform measures he's proposed to curtail the influence of those groups. Polls show the governor's once stratospheric popularity has dropped below 50 percent in recent months.

But analysts have noted several shifts in the state's population that suggest potential for Republicans to expand their reach.

California is home to nearly 37 million people — one out of every eight Americans — and is projected to add as many as 11 million more in the next two decades, roughly the equivalent of the state of Ohio. But while population growth is slowing in left-leaning coastal areas like Los Angeles and San Francisco, it is accelerating in more conservative regions like the Central Valley and the Inland Empire area east of Los Angeles.

The state's large Hispanic population, long staunchly

Democratic, has become somewhat less so in recent years. Bush won 32 percent of California's Hispanic vote in 2004, up from 28 percent in 2000. About one-third of Hispanic voters favored Schwarzenegger in the 2003 recall election even though one of their own, Democratic Lt. Gov. Cruz Bustamante, was in the mix.

Mehlman has seized on those trends, traveling to California every six weeks since assuming the party chairmanship in January to do outreach in Hispanic, black and Asian American areas. On this visit, he addressed a Hispanic community center south of Los Angeles and a black leadership forum in Sacramento, on top of several fundraisers and meetings with GOP lawmakers.

Art Torres, chairman of the California Democratic Party, said that Republicans since the Richard Nixon era have spoken of outreach to Hispanic voters but have done little to increase their numbers in the GOP.

"The bottom line is that the dynamics of the national Republican Party have produced a consistent pattern of behavior. In even numbered years they talk a good game, but they don't deliver on issues of jobs, education and health care," Torres said.

But Torres didn't dispute that Republicans had potential to make inroads in California if Democrats aren't vigilant about their own outreach and recruitment efforts.

"I always worry about the next election. I never take anything for granted and that includes the Latino community, and that means going to red areas of the state where we don't usually show up where we need to," Torres said.

In his outreach to ethnic minorities, Mehlman said he stresses the party's commitment to economic self-reliance and traditional family values.

"Republicans have an opportunity to explain to the Latino community that we have shared values — respect for the family, a belief in a strong military," Mehlman said.

Still, most analysts believe Republicans have a long way to go to repair the party's image among Hispanic voters, after a 1994 ballot initiative promoted by GOP Gov. Pete Wilson to deny social services to illegal immigrants caused Hispanics to line up solidly with Democrats.

The problem may have been complicated recently by

Schwarzenegger himself, who has criticized the federal government for lax border controls and praised the so-called Minuteman Project, a controversial civilian patrol group that has helped capture hundreds of illegal immigrants in Arizona. Bush has denounced the group as vigilantes.

In California, Mehlman stressed the need for a comprehensive immigration policy that includes better border enforcement and a guest worker program for migrants already in the United States.

"We need to understand we'll never control the border unless and until we also recognize the reality that there are certain jobs Americans don't want that folks are going to come here for," Mehlman said.

The immigration comments aren't the first time Schwarzenegger has publicly contradicted Bush administration policy. He also supports gay rights, legalized abortion and stricter gun controls, and has cut sharply to the left of the Bush administration on environmental issues.

Last week, Schwarzenegger unveiled an aggressive plan to combat global warming by setting goals for reducing California's emission of greenhouse gases.

"We know the science, we see the threat and we know the time for action is now," Schwarzenegger said, repudiating the Bush administration position that the scientific evidence around global warming is inconclusive.

Schwarzenegger is also an enthusiastic backer of stem cell research. While Bush has questioned the morality of such research and set strict limits on its public funding, Schwarzenegger campaigned for a successful ballot initiative directing the state to borrow \$3 billion to finance the research.

Mehlman said he was comfortable with the nation's best-known Republican governor taking positions that were publicly at odds with the Bush administration, and he downplayed a magazine interview last month in which Schwarzenegger said growing the Republican party was not part of his mission.

"We're a big party, and we're a party where people will disagree on some issues while agreeing on what it means to be a Republican," Mehlman said. "I think he's a great leader with a very big task before him to reform the government, and his success will help grow the Republican party."

California stem cell agency faces threats in state Legislature

BY PAUL ELIAS

AP Biotechnology Writer

SAN FRANCISCO — California's effort to become a world leader in human embryonic stem cell research has long been supported by a coterie of well-heeled patient advocates who found their champion in an obscure state senator from Sacramento.

Now a battle for control of the \$3 billion in research money voters approved last year has unraveled the alliance and threatens to cripple the California Institute for Regenerative Medicine even before it awards its first grant, agency officials say.

The state Senate is expected to vote this week on a proposed constitutional amendment that would tighten perceived loopholes in how the agency is governed. Among other provisions, the amendment would require institute officials to sell off — or place into a blind trust — any investments related to stem cell research.

The amendment also would require any drugs developed with agency money to be made available, at cost, to California's poor, and any drug profits would have to be shared with the state.

Supporters of the institute say the changes would cripple their effort, driving away top talent and corporate involvement just when other states and nations are competing for stem cell research projects.

If the amendment is approved by at least 27 of the 40 senators, the Assembly will have until June 30 to find its own two-thirds majority willing to place it on an expected state ballot in November.

The proposed amendment was written by state Sen. Deborah Ortiz, a Sacramento Democrat who was an early backer of California's Proposition 71, which created the stem cell agency when 59 percent of state voters passed

it in November.

The California initiative was prompted by the federal funding restrictions President Bush has placed on the work, which is opposed by many social conservatives because days-old embryos are destroyed during research. Other states have quickly moved to pass similar funding efforts, fearing the loss of gifted scientists and biotechnology businesses.

Ortiz said she remains a supporter of the agency and of human embryonic stem cell research. But she's become concerned since November that the language of Proposition 71 doesn't ensure California will share in potential profits or that poor residents will benefit from the taxpayer-supported research. She's also concerned about some of the fine print, which allows for key agency committees to conduct much of their work behind closed doors.

And she says the dramatic step of going back to the voters is necessary because Proposition 71 prohibits the Legislature from amending the initiative for three years. The proposition vested all decision-making power with a 29-member board, appointed by Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger and other elected officials.

The new agency's first chairman, Bob Klein, said Ortiz's legislation is unnecessary and obstructionist. The agency already faces a legal challenge over its constitutionality, which prevents it from borrowing money to fund the research grants. Klein worries that going back to the voters with an amendment could open the institute to even more legal challenges.

"Sen. Ortiz may have many of the same goals that we do, but it is the language itself that is crippling or potentially crippling to the institute," Klein said during a May 23 meeting of the agency's oversight committee, which voted unanimously to oppose Ortiz's legislation.

Ortiz agreed to tone down some of the language after meeting with Klein on May 27 and said she still intends to qualify a proposed amendment for the ballot. But it's not clear whether she's got enough support from her fellow lawmakers, who are getting lobbied by patient advocacy groups. The University of California, Stanford University, the California Institute of Technology and the University of Southern California also have formally expressed concern.

"I have a very tough time ahead of me," Ortiz said. "I'm not convinced I can get two-thirds vote and the timelines are incredible. It's a huge challenge."

Hollywood producers and directors Janet and Jerry Zucker are among the former allies disappointed with Ortiz. Proposition 71 was born during a dinner attended by Ortiz at the Zuckers' Brentwood home three years ago, and Ortiz campaigned heavily for Proposition 71's passage. The Zuckers helped raise the more than \$30 million spent in support of the campaign.

"Jerry and I feel a great debt of gratitude for the support she has shown stem cell research in California," said Janet Zucker, who produced the 2001 comedy "Rat Race" and whose teenage daughter suffers from diabetes. "But we are perplexed and feel there is a better forum to work out these issues."

Dr. Francisco Prieto, who made small campaign contributions to Ortiz before his appointment to the 29 member committee that oversees the stem cell agency, said the fight has been needlessly antagonistic. He hopes a compromise can be reached between his committee and Ortiz before the proposed amendment goes any further.

"I think the approach we have taken as a board has been more confrontational than it needs to be," Prieto said. "Sen. Ortiz, in my opinion, has been and continues to be a strong supporter of stem cell research."

STATE



After long campaign of inclusion, mayor-elect faces racial challenge

BY MICHAEL R. BLOOD
Associated Press Writer

LOS ANGELES — As a candidate for mayor, Antonio Villaraigosa packaged his ethnicity as carefully as he knotted one of his designer ties. Looking to appeal across the racial rainbow, he became the candidate who happened to be Hispanic, not the Hispanic candidate.

But only days after his watershed election as the first Hispanic mayor of modern Los Angeles, a rash of fist-fights between black and Hispanic students forced him to speak to the racial lines that crisscross — and sometimes divide — one of the nation's most diverse cities.

On issues from jobs to housing to education, the city's complex and shifting racial milieu will test his promise to be a mayor "for all Los Angeles."

Among blacks and Latinos, "at the street level, the tensions are there, at schools, over employment," said Harry Pachon, director of the Tomas Rivera Policy Institute at the University of Southern California.

School-yard fights are commonplace, but the racial rivalries that played a part in the recent brawls at Jefferson High School gave the mayor-elect an early, unexpected opportunity to take up the role of civic and cultural bridge-builder he talked about during his campaign.

On May 26, several dozen black and Hispanic teens at the school were involved in a fight so serious that school police used batons and pepper spray to break it up. It was the third racially motivated brawl in six weeks at the overwhelmingly Hispanic school.

There were no serious injuries. Police said they were unaware of any link between gangs and the violence.

After a campaign in which he promised to "bring this great city together," Villaraigosa was at the school the next day, meeting with teachers and students. He is reviewing the organization of the mayor's office to determine if a special office for race and safety issues is needed to work with the Los Angeles Unified School District, which runs the 800-campus system.

"One of the most important responsibilities for the next mayor is to help bring this city together," said Villaraigosa, 52, the son of a Mexican immigrant. "We cannot allow — in a city as diverse as this one — racial violence in our schools. We've got to have a zero toler-

ance for it."

Villaraigosa's election came as the latest sign of expanding Latino political clout in California and across the nation. He was elected the city's first Latino mayor since 1872 by knitting together Hispanics, blacks and left-leaning whites — a coalition that some analysts called a new paradigm in urban politics.

When he takes office July 1, Villaraigosa will inherit a city with chronic growing pains. Steady population growth has contributed to snarled traffic, housing shortages and a troubled school system. Downtown needs a makeover, the airport a major renovation.

After running as a unity candidate, the mayor-elect has elevated expectations for a new period of racial and ethnic cooperation. But recent history shows such volatile issues can quickly alter the political landscape.

Tensions flared in February after police shot and killed a black teenager, Devin Brown, while he was driving a stolen car. Police treatment of car-theft suspect Stanley Miller, who was hammered repeatedly with a steel flashlight after a chase in South Los Angeles last year, recalled the infamous Rodney King case.

Mayor James Hahn saw his popularity among blacks plummet after he helped push out the city's black police chief in 2002. The issue contributed to Hahn's loss to Villaraigosa last month.

A Los Angeles Times exit poll in the May 17 election found that Villaraigosa was seen by supporters as a candidate who understood the city's cultural complexity and can bring people together. Still, race relations ranked well below education, gangs and jobs as top issues.

"Soothing racial tension is something he cares about, but it's not an easy thing to accomplish," said Matthew Streb, a political scientist at Loyola Marymount University who studies politics and race.

"Appearances at high schools are great, but people are going to ask 'what more are we going to see?' The average person on the street, are they willing to overcome their prejudices?"

Villaraigosa isn't alone in wanting to city to be more assertive on racial issues at schools.

"We can't just keep responding to this like a fire department — responding when something happens," said Police Chief William Bratton. "We need to focus much more on what we need to do to prevent it in the future."

The rise of the machines redux: Robot race semifinalists named

BY ALICIA CHANG
AP Science Writer

LOS ANGELES — Let the battle of the machines begin again.

Forty self-navigating robots were chosen Monday to compete in the Oct. 8 sequel to last year's first-ever robot race across the Mojave Desert.

Only half of the semifinalists will qualify for a spot on the starting line, based on how they maneuver — without human help — through a series of obstacle courses.

The stakes are higher this time around: Organizers of the Pentagon-sponsored race doubled the prize money to \$2 million after none of the 15 contestants finished the rugged desert course last year.

A converted Humvee by Carnegie Mellon University was the best performer last year despite traveling only 7 1/2 miles across the desert before breaking down. The Red Team that designed the Humvee nicknamed Sandstorm is back for another shot with an improved version and is entering a second robot in the competition.

"This year is a dogfight. It's going to be a real rumble," said William "Red" Whittaker, a robotics professor at Carnegie Mellon University who leads the Red Team.

The semifinalists will compete head-to-head at the California Speedway in Fontana in September and October in a series of trials designed to test their self-navigation skills. The robotic vehicles cannot be controlled remotely and must rely on global positioning

satellites and various sensors, lasers, radar and cameras to orient themselves and detect and avoid barriers.

Based on the robots' performance, the field will be further whittled down and 20 robots will be chosen to race in October.

The first robot to make it across 150 miles of desert between Los Angeles and Las Vegas in less than 10 hours wins. The exact course will be revealed two hours before race time.

This year's semifinalists include most of last year's participants vying for a second chance. The teams, which come from 16 states and Canada, include individuals, universities, corporations and a high school. Nearly 200 teams applied for this year's race.

Among the newcomers is the Stanford Racing Team, which is entering a converted Volkswagen Touareg nicknamed Stanley. Team leader Sebastian Thrun, a computer science professor at Stanford University, said his focus is to try to perfect Stanley's computerized navigation system so that it can overcome any obstacle.

"It's all about building a mind for the machine," Thrun said. "It's a software race, not a hardware race."

The so-called Grand Challenge contest is sponsored by the research and development arm of the Pentagon known as the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency to foster the development of unmanned vehicles that could be used in combat. The race is part of the Pentagon's efforts to have one-third of all ground vehicles unmanned by 2015.

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NATIONAL

Saddam faces trial for gassings, executions

BY PAUL GARWOOD

Associated Press Writer

BAGHDAD, Iraq — Former dictator Saddam Hussein will stand trial for a range of charges, according to a list obtained Monday from the special tribunal.

Iraqi officials want the case against Saddam, who could face 500 charges, to concentrate on 14 thoroughly documented cases for which authorities believe they can get convictions.

Many of the allegations on the list obtained by The Associated Press from the special tribunal received international attention during Saddam's three decades in power.

The list contained few details, but among the crimes the tribunal says Saddam was responsible for were:

■ The execution of at least 50 Iraqis in 1982 in the Shiite town of Dujail, 50 miles north of Baghdad, in retaliation for a failed assassination attempt against Saddam.

■ The killing and deporting of 8,000 members of the powerful Kurdish Barzani tribe, of which the current Kurdistan Democratic Party leader, Massoud Barzani, is a member.

■ The 1988 chemical weapons attack on the Kurdish town of Halabja that killed an estimated 5,000 people.

■ The execution of prominent religious and political figures.

■ The seven-month occupation of Kuwait that was ended by the 1991 U.S.-led Gulf War.

■ The 1991 suppression of a Shiite uprising in southern Iraq.

Saddam also was blamed for turning southern marsh-

land reputed to contain the biblical Garden of Eden into an arid salt bed. Saddam ordered new dams, canals and dikes built to drain the Mesopotamian marshlands between the Tigris and Euphrates rivers following the 1991 Shiite uprising. Thousands of Shiites lived and fished in the area.

Iraqi authorities believe the trial against Saddam, which could commence within two months, will have a major effect on curbing the violent insurgency, which has killed at least 844 people since the new Shiite Muslim-led government was announced April 28, according to an AP count.

Separate mortar barrages Sunday and Monday apparently targeting police stations in the northern city of Mosul killed six Iraqis, including two children, U.S. and Iraqi officials said.

Gunmen also killed Ahmed Kamal, an Egyptian with U.S. citizenship, while he was driving his car Sunday in western Baghdad, police Lt. Hamid Zaki said, adding that Kamal worked as a contractor with Iraq's Electricity Ministry.

Kazem Shelash, a senior member of the disbanded Baath Party in the southern city of Basra, was killed Monday by two gunmen in a speeding car outside his shop, police Col. Karim al-Zeidi said.

A U.S. soldier was killed Sunday when a roadside bomb exploded near a military patrol in northern Iraq in the province of Kirkuk, the military said Monday. At least 1,669 U.S. military members have died since the Iraq war began in 2003, according to an AP count.

Police shot at a suicide car bomber, whose vehicle still exploded at a western Baghdad checkpoint Monday,

wounding three police and three bystanders, a police official said. The U.S. military said the bomber's hands were tied to the steering wheel, indicating he had no alternative but to carry out the attack.

In a bid to combat the insurgency, Iraqi authorities have launched a U.S.-backed counterinsurgency campaign dubbed Operation Lightning.

The U.S. Army's 3rd Infantry Division provided figures showing that 887 suspected insurgents have been detained and 38 weapons caches uncovered since the operation began May 22.

Sunni Muslim organizations are complaining that many innocent Iraqis have been arrested during the blitz and that most were Sunnis.

"There is an improvement in security and in the performance of the security forces, but members of the army and police do cause mistakes, which do happen," Laith Kuba, spokesman for Iraq's prime minister, said.

The charges of overzealous behavior by security forces coincide with government efforts to include Sunni Arabs in the political process and to involve them in drafting a new constitution. Sunni approval is necessary for the charter's adoption in a national referendum. It is to be ready by mid-August for a nationwide vote in October.

Iraqi authorities believe Saddam loyalists and Sunni extremists are responsible for most of the attacks, which are designed to topple the new government that is dominated by Shiites and Kurds, who were oppressed during his rule.

Foreign Minister Hoshiyar Zebari and other officials have been saying the trial against Saddam, who was captured in December 2003, should start within two months.

Buzz kill: State stops issuing medical marijuana cards

BY BRAD CAIN

Associated Press Writer

SALEM, Ore. — State health officials suspended issuing medical marijuana cards to patients on Monday in response to a U.S. Supreme Court ruling that federal authorities may prosecute sick people whose doctors approve marijuana use to ease pain.

"We want to proceed cautiously until we understand the ramifications of this ruling," said Grant Higginson, a public health officer who oversees Oregon's medical marijuana program.

Oregon is among 10 states with medical marijuana laws.

The Bush administration has taken a hard stand against state medical marijuana laws, but it was unclear how it would respond to the new prosecutorial power. Justice Department spokesman John Nowacki would not say whether prosecutors would pursue cases against individual users.

Kevin Neely, a spokesman for state Attorney General Hardy Myers, said Monday's court ruling could lead to federal action against Oregonians who hold medical marijuana cards.

"In 1998, the attorney general issued guidelines that

warned cardholders of potential federal prosecution," Neely said. "Today's decision clarifies the federal government's authority to in fact prosecute cardholders."

More than 10,000 Oregonians hold medical marijuana cards.

It is unclear what impact the law will have on users of medical marijuana in Oregon and on the doctors who prescribe it.

Christopher Campbell of Portland, a cancer patient who has a medical marijuana card, said he will not cease using the drug to quell his pain and improve his appetite. "It's not going to stop me, that's for sure," said Campbell, 58, who suffers from lymphoma.

State Sen. Alan Bates, an Ashland physician who has a large medical practice in southern Oregon, said that, at least for now, he's going to stop writing authorizations for patients to get marijuana cards.

"I won't approve any more until I know what's going on," the Democratic lawmaker said. "I don't want to do anything to get patients arrested or in trouble with the federales."

Bates said he's written authorizations for about 15 of his patients to use marijuana — mostly to ease the effects of chemotherapy or to relieve chronic pain.

Higginson said his office had gotten numerous

inquiries from medical marijuana patients asking what effect the court's ruling would have on them.

"Until we get further direction from the attorney general's office, we really don't have further advice to give to our patients," he said.

The Oregon law, approved by voters in 1998, allows residents to use a small amount of marijuana for medical purposes. They must grow their own or designate a caregiver to do so for them. A doctor must verify that the patient has a "debilitating medical condition" or a symptom such as nausea or severe pain. More than 1,700 Oregon doctors have signed at least one patient application.

John Sajo, a longtime marijuana activist who campaigned for the 1998 law, said patients who hold state marijuana cards should feel free to continue using the drug despite Monday's ruling.

The ruling only made clear that the federal government has authority to prosecute people for marijuana use — something the government hasn't shown much interest in doing in the past, Sajo said.

"There's nothing in this opinion that would shut down Oregon's medical marijuana program," Sajo said. "Our advice to current cardholders is to continue doing what they are doing."



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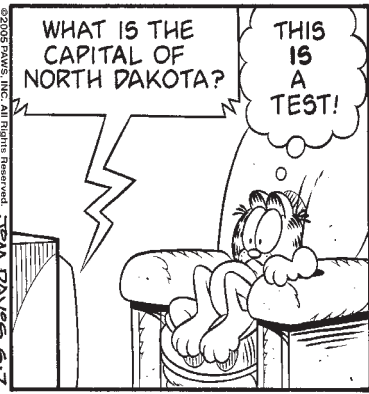
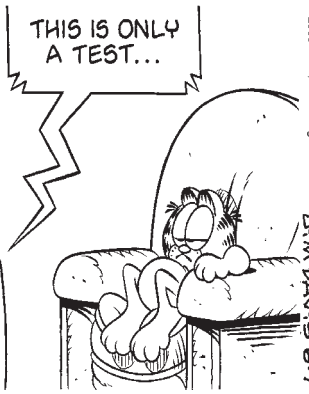
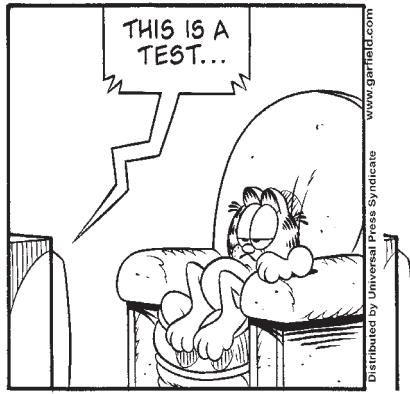
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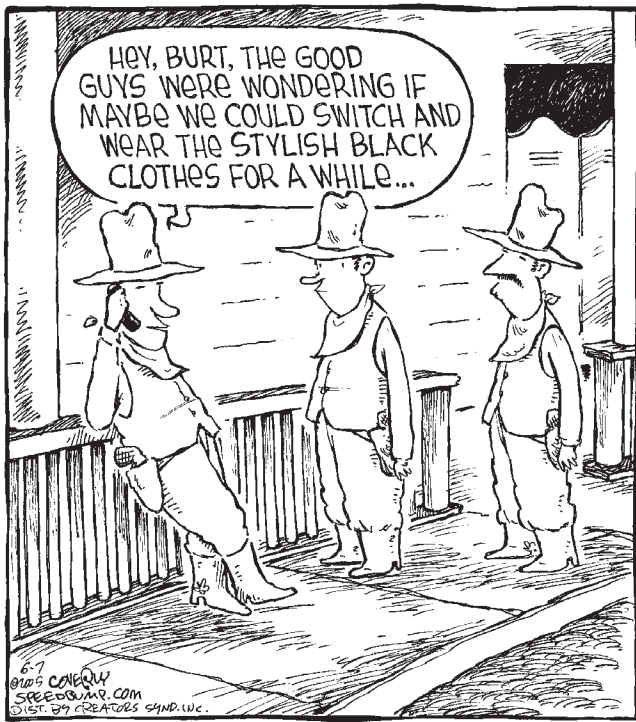
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PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Crowe dials up more trouble, busted for assault

By The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Russell Crowe was arrested and charged Monday for allegedly throwing a telephone at an employee of the Manhattan hotel where he was staying.

Crowe, 41, who plays a boxer in his latest film, "Cinderella Man," allegedly threw the phone at the concierge at the Mercer Hotel in SoHo, "hitting him in the face and causing a laceration and substantial pain," according to the complaint.

The Australian movie star was arraigned on charges of second-degree assault and fourth-degree criminal possession of a weapon before Manhattan Criminal Court Judge Martin Murphy. The assault charge is punishable by four years in prison.

"This arose because he was trying to get his wife on the phone in Australia," his lawyer, Gerald Lefcourt, told reporters earlier outside the police precinct where Crowe was booked. "He was in his room. He couldn't get a line and there was a disagreement."

Police said Crowe left his room and went to the front desk where the alleged confrontation took place.

The prosecution told the judge that Crowe admitted to a police officer that he picked up the phone and threw it because he was angry.

Assistant District Attorney Chad Sjoquist asked the judge to set \$5,000 bail, but Murphy released Crowe on his own recognizance and told him to return to court Sept. 14.

After Crowe was processed at the police precinct, he was led out in handcuffs to a police sport utility vehicle for the ride to criminal court. A horde of media, including a news helicopter hovering overhead, descended on him. Crowe, wearing dark shades, a blue bomber-style jacket and jeans, declined comment.

Crowe's publicist, Robin Baum, told syndicated TV show "Extra" that "after asking the front desk several times to replace a faulty phone in his room Crowe

brought the phone down to the front desk in an effort to address the situation in person.

"Words were exchanged and Crowe wound up throwing the phone against the wall. He regrets that he lost his temper, but at no time did he assault anyone or touch any hotel employee."

It wasn't the first instance of reported bad behavior by Crowe. The actor got into a brawl at a chic London restaurant in November 2002. Earlier that year, he reportedly was abusive toward a TV executive when the British Broadcasting Corp. edited his acceptance speech out of a broadcast of the British Academy Film Awards.

Crowe is married to actress Danielle Spencer and they have a 17-month-old son, Charles Spencer Crowe. He won an Oscar for his role in 2000's "Gladiator."

LOS ANGELES — Lindsay Lohan wishes paparazzi would keep their distance, especially after police said a photographer intentionally crashed into her car.

"It's a frightening experience. There's a line that needs to be drawn now," the actress-singer told reporters recently, according to AP Radio.

Lohan suffered cuts and bruises in the accident last week in Los Angeles. Police said the photographer intentionally rammed the left rear of Lohan's 2005 Mercedes-Benz.

"I was so shaken up, but I was still nice 'cause I was like, 'I understand it's your job. But you don't have to ram into me next time. I'll give you a picture.'"

It's been a difficult year, Lohan said.

She broke up with "That '70s Show" actor Wilmer Valderrama, was hospitalized for exhaustion and has lost weight. Her father has had various run-ins with the law.

"I'm an 18-year-old girl and I've dealt with so many things in this past year," she said.

Lohan said she can't figure out why tabloid magazines are so interested in her personal life.

"There's not much I can do at this point anymore. I feel like the more I kind of defend myself, then the more they say. I'm just such an easy target, I guess. I don't know why I'm so interesting."

"Hopefully, people will get sick of it and ban buying the magazines in protest against it for a month," she said. Lohan added, with a laugh: "But I can't say that I don't read it."

Her role in last year's "Mean Girls" earned her the award for best female performance at the 2005 MTV Movie Awards, taped Saturday night in Los Angeles.

Lohan's new film, "Herbie: Fully Loaded," will be in theaters June 22.

LOS ANGELES — Could it be time to put more candles on the cake?

Molly Ringwald said she's in discussions to make a sequel to "Sixteen Candles," the 1984 movie about the obstacles and embarrassments a teen girl faces on her birthday.

The John Hughes film shot Ringwald to teen stardom but she has not appeared in a major role in many years. She said she's been appearing in theater, small TV and film parts and raising a daughter, now 1 1/2.

Ringwald, 37, said she had been approached repeatedly about doing a sequel but recently read a script that she liked and wanted to star in the movie.

"I've turned it down for years. I couldn't see how it would work," she said Saturday. "Now, it seems right."

Ringwald was reunited Saturday at the MTV Movie Awards with three fellow "The Breakfast Club" cast members.

Appearing on stage with her were Anthony Michael Hall, Ally Sheedy and Paul Gleason, who played the principal in the 1985 Hughes movie about high school detention. Judd Nelson and Emilio Estevez didn't show, and Hall joked, "They're in Africa with Dave Chappelle."

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